

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Building Codes

July 15, 2020

Photo of Memphis, Tennessee



FEMA



Photo of Miami, Florida

Agenda

- **Welcome:**
Carlos J. Castillo, FEMA
- **BRIC and Building Codes:**
Camille Crain, FEMA
- **Building Codes and Resilience:**
John Ingargiola, FEMA Building Science Branch
- **Industry Perspectives:**
Gabe Maser, International Code Council
Pam Williams, BuildStrong

Carlos J. Castillo

Deputy Administrator, Resilience





BRIC and Building Codes

Camille Crain, FEMA



Building Codes

- DRRRA provides legislative mandate to support broader adoption of updated building codes
- Projects must conform with latest published codes (either of two most recently published editions)
- BRIC will fund building code activity

Leverage references like the National Building Code Assessment Report, https://www.isomitigation.com/siteassets/downloads/iso-bcegs-state-report_web.pdf

Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS)

- An independent assessment of a community's building code adoption and enforcement activities, resulting in a score of 1 (best) to 10
- BCEGS surveys are provided at no cost and do not negatively impact credit ratings
 - Generally take 2-4 months to complete, so communities are encouraged to initiate the process **as soon as possible**

More Information on BCEGS Surveys

To request a BCEGS survey, refer to the submission instructions referenced on the ISO-Mitigation website:

<https://www.isomitigation.com/bcegs/>

Questions about the BCEGS survey can be directed to BCEGS_Info@verisk.com



**Building code activities
are eligible for funding
under Capability- and
Capacity-Building**

Example Building Code Adoption and Enforcement Activities



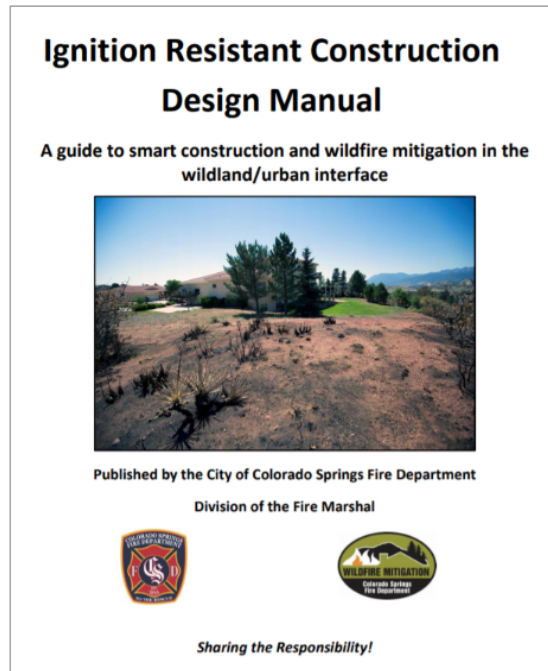
Evaluate adoption
and/or implementation
of codes that reduce risk



Enhance existing adopted
codes to incorporate more
current requirements or
higher standards



Develop professional
workforce capabilities
through technical
assistance and training



FEMA “Colorado Wildfire Mitigation, Strategies Tested and Lessons Learned” video available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liyA-PEIzVI>

FEMA Story Map on Colorado Springs Wildfire Mitigation available at:

<https://fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=329347c89a774b378cea8829f67ce2cb>

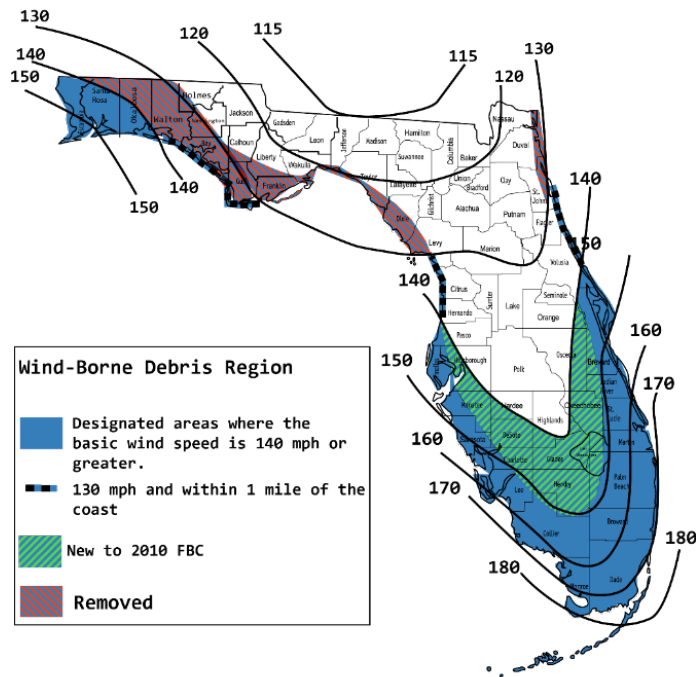
Building Codes Case Study

Colorado Springs Wildfire Mitigation

Colorado Springs, CO

Building Codes Case Study

Florida Building Code Wind Standard (2010)



Florida Building Codes State of Florida

<https://codes.iccsafe.org/category/Florida>






A blue-tinted photograph of a historic town street. The street is lined with multi-story brick buildings. On the right, a sign for 'FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES' is visible, listing 'CORY A. ALBIN' and the phone number '(406) 426-5088'. Below it, a sign for 'BANK BUILDING' is partially visible. The street has several cars parked and a person riding a bicycle. American flags are hanging from the buildings. The overall scene is a typical small-town main street.

Building Codes and Resilience

John Ingargiola, FEMA Building Science

Mitigation Saves 2.0 Reports

Research Has Shown the Value of Hazard-Resistant Building Code Adoption and Enforcement

National Benefit-Cost Ratio Per Peril <small>*BCR numbers in this study have been rounded</small>		Exceed common code requirements	Meet common code requirements	Utilities and transportation	Federally funded
Overall Hazard Benefit-Cost Ratio		4:1	11:1	4:1	6:1
 Riverine Flood		5:1	6:1	8:1	7:1
 Hurricane Surge		7:1	Not applicable	Not applicable	Too few grants
 Wind		5:1	10:1	7:1	5:1
 Earthquake		4:1	12:1	3:1	3:1
 Wildland-Urban Interface Fire		4:1	Not applicable	Not applicable	3:1

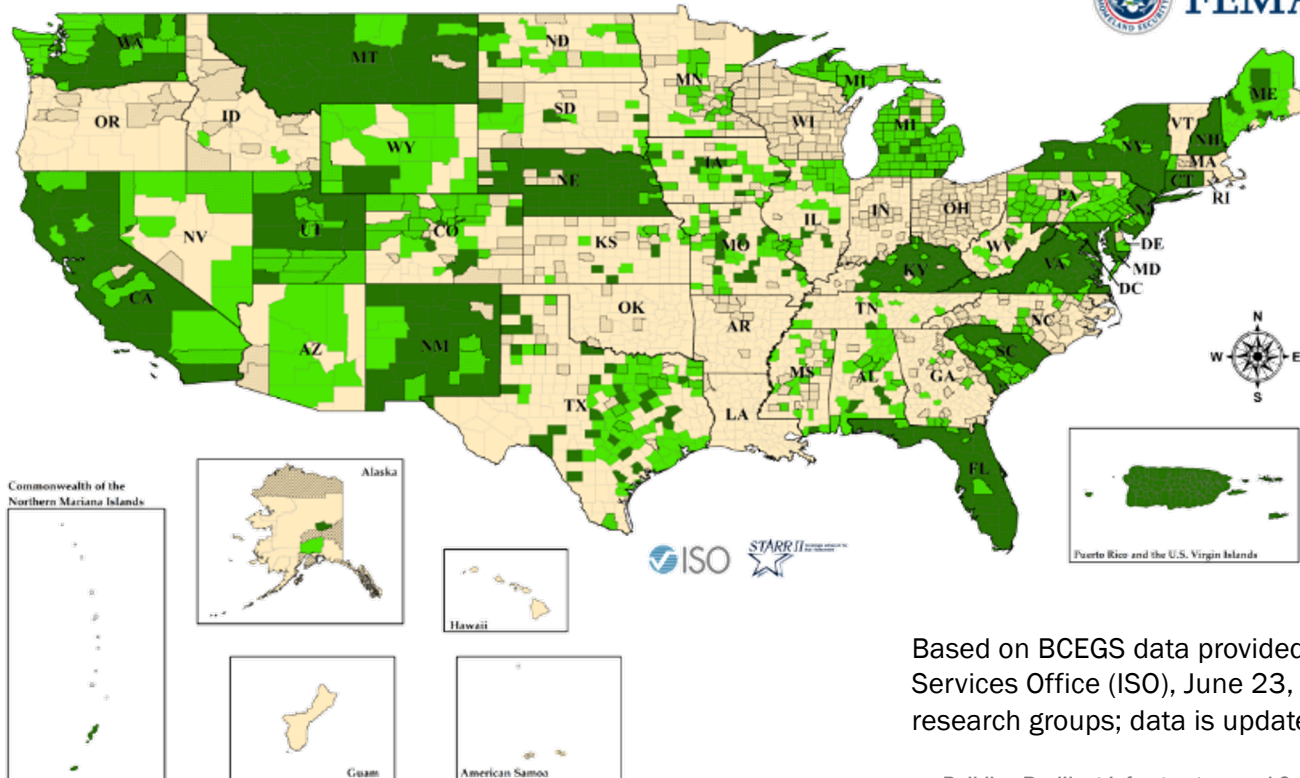
Current Building Code Adoption Landscape

Adoption of Hazard-Resistant* Building Codes

June 23, 2020



FEMA



Hazard Resistance for
At-Risk Counties
using the 2015 or
later IBC/IRC

Based on BCEGS data provided by Insurance
Services Office (ISO), June 23, 2020, or other
research groups; data is updated quarterly



FEMA

Find your Building Codes



[InspectToProtect.org](https://inspecttoprotect.org)

- Local code awareness outreach program run by FLASH



codes.iccsafe.org

- International Code Council's code adoption map



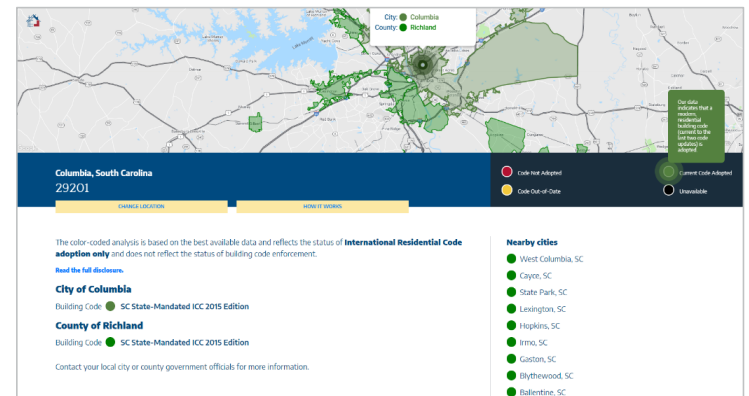
[geo.stantec.com/National BCATS Portal/viewer](https://geo.stantec.com/National_BCATS_Portal/viewer)

- New BCATS WebGIS Portal



www.verisk.com/siteassets/media/downloads/underwriting/location/2019-bcegs-schedule.pdf

- National Building Code Assessment Report

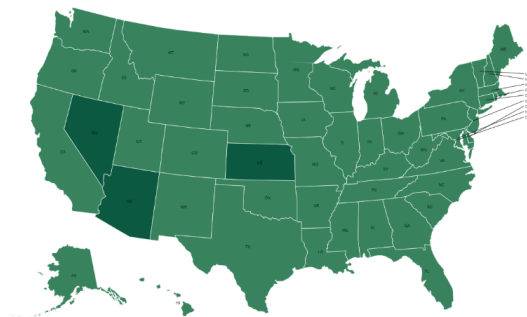


Find Your Codes: [InspectToProtect.org](https://inspecttoprotect.org)



Find Your Codes

Find Codes by State

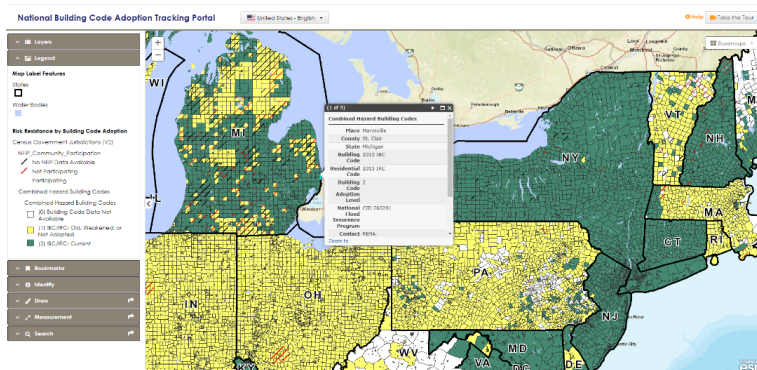
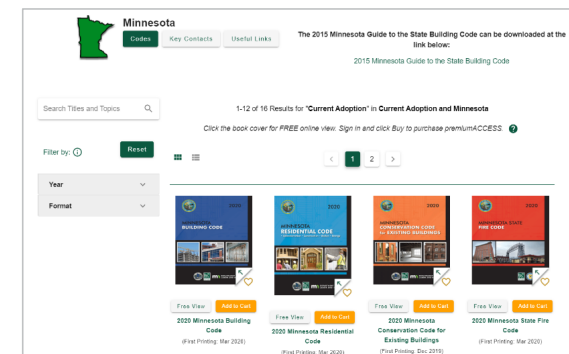


● Statewide adoption of one or more ICC Codes
(also includes locally adopted codes)

● States where ICC Codes are adopted at
the local level by jurisdictions

ICC Digital Codes Library

codes.iccsafe.org



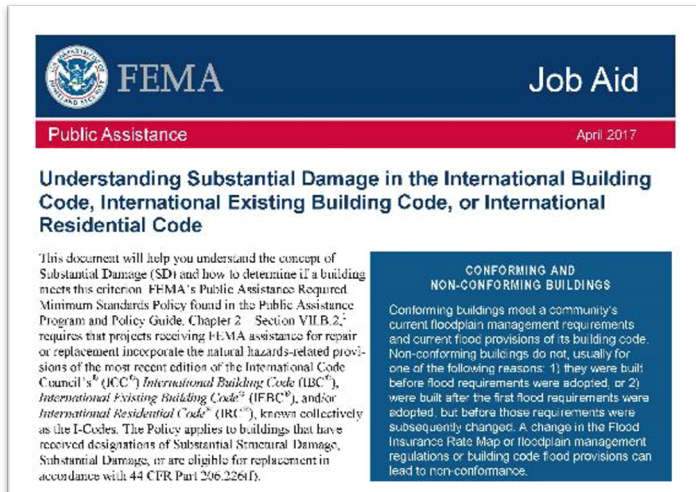
BCATS WebGIS Portal

geo.stantec.com/National_BCATS_Portal/viewer

Advancement of Building Codes

Latest consensus-based codes and standards are:

- an increasingly key part of federal disaster recovery policy;
- widely incorporated across FEMA programs and initiatives; and
- informing state/local building code initiatives.



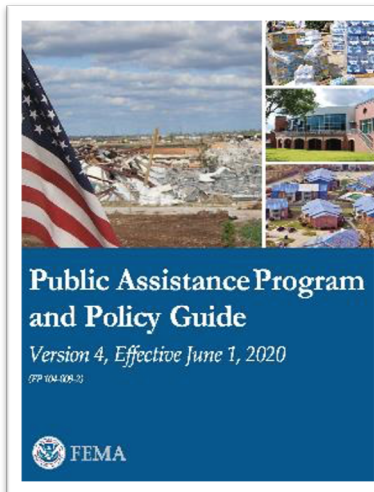
FEMA Job Aid
Public Assistance April 2017

Understanding Substantial Damage in the International Building Code, International Existing Building Code, or International Residential Code

This document will help you understand the concept of Substantial Damage (SD) and how to determine if a building meets this criterion. FEMA's Public Assistance Required Minimum Standards Policy found in the Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide, Chapter 2, Section VII.B.2, requires that projects receiving FEMA assistance for repair or replacement incorporate the natural hazards-related provisions of the most recent edition of the International Code Council's (ICC) International Building Code (IBC), International Existing Building Code (IEBC), and/or International Residential Code (IRC), known collectively as the I-Codes. The Policy applies to buildings that have received designations of Substantial Structural Damage, Substantial Damage, or are eligible for replacement in accordance with 44 CFR Part 206.226(f).

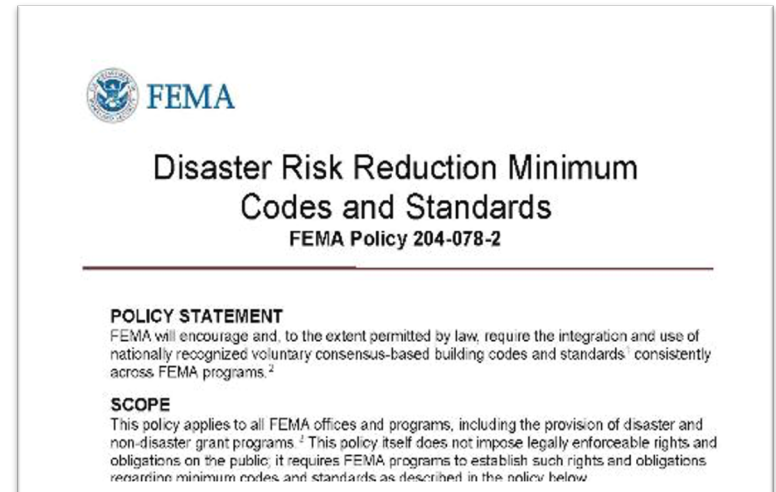
CONFORMING AND NON-CONFORMING BUILDINGS

Conforming buildings meet a community's current floodplain management requirements and current flood provisions of its building code. Non-conforming buildings do not, usually for one of the following reasons: 1) they were built before flood requirements were adopted, or 2) were built after the first flood requirements were adopted but before those requirements were subsequently changed. A change in the Flood Insurance Rate Map or floodplain management regulations or building code flood provisions can lead to non-conformance.



Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide
Version 4, Effective June 1, 2020
(FPMR 101-106.2)

FEMA



FEMA

Disaster Risk Reduction Minimum Codes and Standards
FEMA Policy 204-078-2

POLICY STATEMENT
FEMA will encourage and, to the extent permitted by law, require the integration and use of nationally recognized voluntary consensus-based building codes and standards¹ consistently across FEMA programs.²

SCOPE
This policy applies to all FEMA offices and programs, including the provision of disaster and non-disaster grant programs.³ This policy itself does not impose legally enforceable rights and obligations on the public; it requires FEMA programs to establish such rights and obligations regarding minimum codes and standards as described in the policy below.



Application: Best Practices on Building Codes

Improve your ISO BCEGS classification. A community's BCEGS classification is based on:

Administration of codes, including:

- building code edition in use
- modification of the codes
- zoning provisions to mitigate natural hazards
- training of code enforcers
- certification of code enforcers
- incentives for outside education/certification
- building officials' qualifications
- contractor/builder licensing and bonding
- public awareness programs
- participation in code development activities and the appeal process

Review of building plans, including:

- staffing levels
- qualifications
- level of detail of plan review
- performance evaluations
- review of plans for one- and two-family dwellings, multifamily dwellings, and commercial buildings

Field inspections, including:

- staffing levels
- qualifications
- level of detail of inspections
- performance evaluations
- final inspections
- issuance of certificates of occupancy

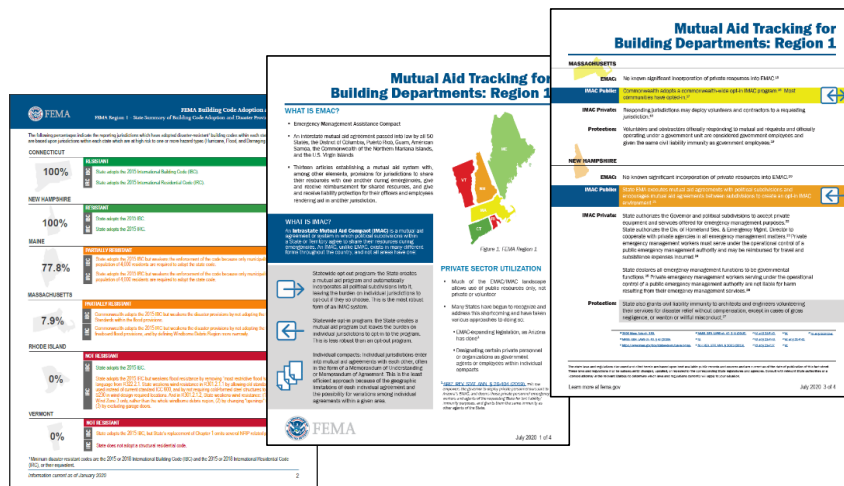
Application Resources: Regional Resources

Regional Reports and Fact Sheets

- Provide a high-level overview of the status of disaster-resistant building code adoption and mutual aid emergency responder legislation in each state and territory within a Region

Regional Building Science Contacts:




- Region 1 – John Grace (John.Grace@fema.dhs.gov)
- Region 2 – Yana Tukvachinski (Yana.Tukvachinski@fema.dhs.gov)
- Region 3 – Charles “Charlie” Baker (Charles.Baker@fema.dhs.gov)
- Region 4 – John “Bud” Plisich (John.Plisich@fema.dhs.gov)
- Region 5 – Pamela Broviak (Pamela.Broviak@fema.dhs.gov)
- Region 6 – Don Leifheit, Jr. (Donald.Leifheitjr@fema.dhs.gov)
- Region 7 – Andy Megrill (Andy.Megrill@fema.dhs.gov)
- Region 8 – Sean McGowan (Sean.McGowan@fema.dhs.gov)
- Region 9 – Michael Hornick (Michael.Hornick@fema.dhs.gov)
- Region 10 – Amanda Siok (Amanda.Siok@fema.dhs.gov)



National Loss Avoidance Study: Building Codes Save

FEMA Building Codes Save: A Nationwide Study of Loss Prevention

- Quantifies economic losses avoided from state and local adoption of modern hazard-resistant building codes and standards
- Adopting hazard-resistant codes will **avoid billions of dollars in future losses** and provide a sustainable return on hazard mitigation investment
- Full Report Fall 2020

Building Codes Save Preliminary Findings of Modeled I-Codes® Savings			
Total Losses Avoided Based on building and content damages	State	Number of Post-2000 Structures	Money Saved
 Flood	CA	25k	\$44 million
	FL	150k	\$152 million
 Seismic	CA	385k	\$42 million
 Hurricane Wind	FL	891k	\$911 million

<https://www.fema.gov/building-codes-save-nationwide-study-loss-prevention>

Building Code Resources

www.fema.gov/building-code-resources

If you need additional information:

FEMA-Buildingsciencehelp@fema.dhs.gov

Building Science Helpline: (866) 927-2104

Other Resources:

- FEMA Building Codes Toolkit
<https://www.fema.gov/building-codes-toolkit>
- ISO Mitigation – Building Codes
<https://www.isomitigation.com/bcegs/>



Industry Perspectives

Gabe Maser, ICC

The International Code Council (ICC)

- ▶ 64,000+ members including building officials, fire services, builders, architects, engineers, and industry representatives
- ▶ Facilitates the development of model codes that help ensure building safety, resiliency, and sustainability
- ▶ Codes are adopted or in use in every state and territory as well as in federal buildings, domestic military bases, and our country's embassies abroad



Building Codes Mitigate Hazards

- ▶ Reduced avg claims post-Hurricane Harvey 90%
- ▶ \$1B in future annual losses avoided in Florida and California per FEMA
- ▶ ROI: \$11:1 (IBC/IRC), \$4:1 (IWUIC) per NIBS
- ▶ Reduced windstorm losses by 72% since Florida's statewide code
- ▶ Reduced hail damage 10-20% in Missouri



Code Enforcement is Critical

- ▶ Challenges preceding Hurricanes Andrew and Hugo as well the Northridge earthquake
 - ▶ Could have accounted for one-quarter of the \$16B in damages in Dade County
- ▶ 25 years after Hurricane Andrew, researchers find effective enforcement can reduce losses 15-25%



Code Implementation Considerations

- ▶ Variations in code adoption
 - ▶ Statewide, home rule, hybrid models
 - ▶ Amendments
 - ▶ Editions
- ▶ Legislative vs. regulatory updates
- ▶ Enforcement

Codes and Housing Affordability

- ▶ Negligible implications for home sales
 - ▶ Post adoption analysis in Moore, OK - no impact on sales or \$ per sqft
 - ▶ NIBS review - 0.5% increase in purchase price over 30 yrs
 - ▶ ASFPM analysis - insurance savings can reduce net monthly mortgage and flood insurance costs by >5%
- ▶ Resilience premium
 - ▶ 6% for hurricane shutters, 4% for tornado shelters



Building Code Requirements and Incentives

- ▶ FEMA Programs
 - ▶ Post-disaster minimum standards
 - ▶ Post-disaster cost-share
 - ▶ Pre-disaster mitigation grants
 - ▶ NFIP/CRS
- ▶ Private Sector Too!



Leveraging BRIC to Strengthen Codes and Promote Community Resilience

- ▶ Potential activities
 - ▶ Code adoption/updating (development and implementation costs)
 - ▶ Code enforcement (incl. e-permitting/plan review, remote virtual inspections)
 - ▶ Training and certifications
- ▶ Low cost/extensive benefits



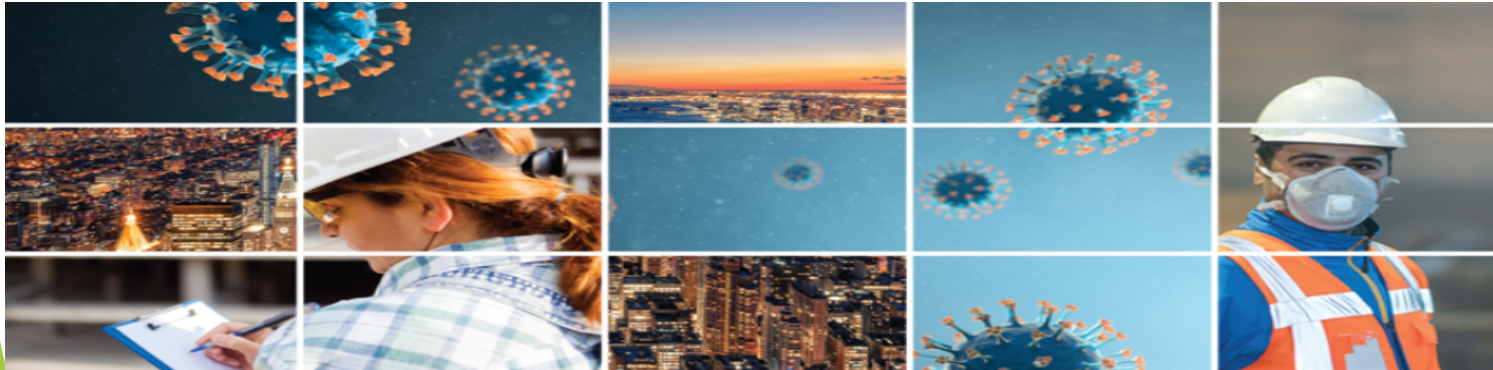
Code Department Virtual Needs

- ▶ Spring survey of 1150 jurisdictions
 - ▶ Nearly all still operating but 2/3s working remotely
 - ▶ 2/10 lacked needed hard copy code books
 - ▶ 3/10 lacked e-permitting capability and 4/10 e-plan review capability
 - ▶ 6/10 lacked the capability to conduct virtual inspections



Addressing Virtual Needs

- ▶ Code officials are essential to health and safety
 - ▶ Safe construction of temporary structures to provide medical surge capacity
 - ▶ Proper operation of ventilation disinfection systems
- ▶ Facilitate construction essential to response/recovery
 - ▶ Lack of virtual capabilities has contributed to plan review and inspection delays



Resources and Contact Info

Code Resources

- ▶ [Mitigation benefits and adoption info](#)
- ▶ [Affordability](#)
- ▶ [Regional ICC staff](#)

Virtual Capabilities

- ▶ [Survey results](#)
- ▶ [Going virtual](#) (white papers, webinars, and jurisdictions' approaches); [digital codes](#); [e-permitting](#); [online testing](#); and [online training](#)

Gabe Maser

Vice President, Government Relations

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Industry Perspectives

Pam Williams, BuildStrong



The Adoption and Enforcement of Building Codes...

Represent one of the most significant changes a community can implement to drive disaster resilience

Who We Are...



The BuildStrong Coalition, formed in 2011 to respond to an increasing number of severe disasters, is made up of a diverse group of members representing firefighters, emergency responders, emergency managers, insurers, engineers, architects, contractors, and manufacturers, as well as consumer organizations, code specialists, and many others committed to building a **more disaster resilient nation.**

Significant Interrelated Reforms



- DRRA implemented dozens of interrelated provisions that can be leveraged together and **with other programs** to facilitate, promote, encourage, and incentivize resiliency while removing impediments, roadblocks, and disincentives
- Flexibilities to develop partnerships with the private sector to create creative, transformational solutions



Building Codes Build Resilience

Building Codes are a Good Investment



According to a December 2018 report from the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS), the **benefit-cost ratios for mitigation strategies** studied found:

Adopting Model Codes Saves	\$11 per \$1 Spent
Federal Mitigation Grants Save	\$6 per \$1 Spent
Exceeding Codes Saves	\$4 per \$1 Spent
Mitigating Infrastructure Saves	\$4 per \$1 Spent

Building Codes...



Protect our lives, property, and money!

- Reduce property and financial loss.
- Get things up and running as quickly as possible to avoid property damage, loss of function, and loss of business.
- Minimized damage protects the community tax base.
- Reduced risk can reduce insurance premiums.

Residential Resilience



- **IBHS:** Cost-effective, risk reducing projects homeowners can undertake to dramatically decrease their risk exposure
- **State Residential Resilience Grant Programs**
 - Strengthen Alabama
<https://strengthenalabamahomes.com/>
 - California Residential Mitigation Program
<https://www.earthquakebracebolt.com/>



Building Partnerships



Cultivating your partners and stakeholders:

- ✓ Increase community-wide, systemic resilience and safety
- ✓ Partnerships for code adoption and implementation
- ✓ Help with project identification, development, and implementation
- ✓ Gain access to coalitions to help assess community vulnerability and exposure to risk
- ✓ Increase access to creative and transformational solutions and financing
- ✓ Increase education and training resources, sharing of best practices and lessons learned
- ✓ Cultivate force multipliers and additional resources

Questions?



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BRIC Stakeholder Engagement Sessions

Purpose and Goals

- Educate stakeholders on all aspects of the BRIC policy and program
- Increase awareness and understanding of key BRIC program components
- BRIC Engagement Sessions – all about the BRIC program (July 2020)
 - July 1: Introduction to BRIC (recording available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X846TRnAnUw&t=2s>)
 - July 8: Meaning of the BRIC Name
 - July 22: BRIC and Community Lifelines
 - July 29: BRIC and Nature-based Solutions
- BRIC NOFO Webinars – will occur after NOFO is released (August - September 2020)



Thank you!

fema.gov/bric